Waste-by-Rail & Tank Cleaning Services

AWS expanded is receiving capabilities recently for non-hazardous liquid wastes shipped by rail. AWS is able to receive, unload and treat wastewater delivered by the railroad to its locations in Milwaukee, WI; New Castle, PA; and Cedar Rapids, IA. In addition, AWS can remove sludge from rail cars, clean them for inspection and perform other similar services, enabling the company to receive and process wastes from all over the United States. All AWS permitted waste processing facilities and fleet operations are strategically located to quickly access railroad spurs.

The EPA will tell you there are over 2400 facilities that perform transportation equipment cleaning. What makes AWS uniquely qualified is its ability to combine rail services with a permitted processing facility, which results in reduced turn-around times and increased convenience and cost-effectiveness, all while reducing extra car movement costs as well as environmental and other liability risks.

Milwaukee, WI

AWS’ Milwaukee facility is strategically located to reduce turn-around time and extra car movement, as four major railroads intersect through Milwaukee:

- Union Pacific Railroad [UP]
- Canadian Pacific Railroad [CP]
- Canadian National Railroad [CN]
- Wisconsin & Southern Railroad [WS]

New Castle, PA

AWS’ New Castle, PA facility is equally convenient by rail, being served by the CSX Railroad, the Norfolk Southern Rail Line and the New Castle Industrial Railroad, which is a short line that switches cars for both CSX and Norfolk Southern main lines.
Cedar Rapids, IA

AWS’ Cedar Rapids, IA facility has a strategic location as well, with five major railroads intersecting through Cedar Rapids and nearby Iowa City.

- Union Pacific Railroad [UP]
- Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway Co. [CIC]
- Iowa Interstate Railroad LTD [IAIA]
- Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad [CC]
- Canadian National Railway Co. [CN]

Strict AAR Standards

Our goal is to help clients clean railcars quickly, cost effectively, and comply with EPA regulations for disposing their waste. Part of this process is extensive confined space training for all our employees. Unlike many other environmental service providers, AWS’ crews are uniquely qualified to perform railcar cleaning.

Governed by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) Field Manual of Interchange Rules and the Association of American Railroads Manual of Standards and Recommended Practice (collectively, the “Laws”), our clients have strict standards of what a “clean” railcar is. As a result, AWS developed a railcar cleaning procedure to meet these high standards that includes:

- Confined space permit.
- Documentation of “heel” or “remaining commodity”.
- Photos of cleaned railcars.

Specialized CSE Equipment

Railcar cleaning requires confined space entry and AWS’ environmental crews have all the permits and certifications, monitors, confined space equipment and safety lines to do this work as well. AWS crews are equipped with the PPE necessary for confined space entry, up to and including respirators, goggles and chemical protective clothing, as appropriate for the contents of the car being cleaned. All crews are fully trained in all the aspects of OSHA regulations, entry procedures, duties of team members, permit preparation, Lockout Tagout, equipment use and demonstration and rescue activities. In addition, all crew members receive additional training whenever a new piece of equipment is purchased as well as annual “refresher” courses.
Equipment Designed for Railcar Cleaning

Railroad spurs and railcars are not always easy to access. AWS’s diverse vehicle and equipment fleet further helps reduce turn-around time for railcar cleaning. Our patented VacSimizer® was designed and built specifically for difficult cleaning projects like railcar cleaning, where off-track access is extremely limited.

The VacSimizer is a powerful, maneuverable and easy to use vacuum truck has a patent awarded design that provides the largest legal payload in the industry. Its powerful yet lightweight, patent-awarded design is maneuverable and easy to use, permitting AWS to remove even the most difficult heel and sludge build up typically associated with railcar cleaning. The VacSimizer is the One Man + One Truck solution for removing large quantities of sludge while reducing Cost, Time, Fuel and Emissions.

In addition to specialized vacuum trucks, AWS also utilizes trailer-mounted Cyclones, which further supports difficult projects like railcar cleaning. Utilizing a Cyclone, sludges and abrasives no longer need to contaminate vacuum trucks. The Cyclone is a low-maintenance piece of equipment that is built to withstand the nastiest of materials.